



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PDC REINSTATES SCHOOL GUIDELINES ON PUBLIC FACILITIES

Olympia – The Public Disclosure Commission voted yesterday to update and reinstate the Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns. Public dissemination of the guidelines, citizen complaints on alleged violations of state law and staff advice to the public were suspended pending the outcome of litigation before the State Supreme Court.

On January 5, 2004 the Supreme Court issued a mandate formalizing its decision to reverse a trial court order that the PDC Guidelines were unconstitutional. The decision removed an injunction against the Commission opening the way for yesterday's decision.

Chair of the Commission, Earl Tilly, said we are now able to again offer the public guidance regarding the Commission's approach and interpretation of the statutory prohibition on the use of public facilities in campaigns.

"We're back in business", Tilly said. "The revised 'Use of the Guidelines' section that now appears at the beginning of the document sets the tone for the guidelines and enhances their usefulness."

The Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns will soon be re-instated on the PDC web page at www.pdc.wa.gov under the **2004 Elections** section along with other related instructional documents. PDC staff is implementing a plan for processing the 30 enforcement complaints that have been on hold since May of 2002, and staff will resume reviewing fact sheets, conducting training, and providing assistance to the public on compliance with the law.